

taxonomy and nomenclature of the *Artemia* species is reviewed, it is rather senseless to deal with the single species *A. franciscana* and leave the rest as messy as it is now.

I believe that it is imperative that the present question as well as the general nomenclatural situation concerning the species of *Artemia* be brought to the attention of as many workers in the field as possible. This is a case, I believe, where the Commission will be rather helpless if not supported by a massive reaction by the workers in the field.

Before knowing their response I cannot express a definite opinion on this question.

(5) Gary C.B. Poore

Curator of Crustacea, Museum of Victoria, 71 Victoria Crescent, Abbotsford, Victoria 3067, Australia

Belk & Bowen have, in the case of *Artemia franciscana*, illustrated how easily popular usage can overtake strict adherence to the rules of priority. In cases where names are little used nothing is lost by enforcing the rules and reintroducing the oldest name. But here is a species which is the subject of a wide range of biological investigation. For the biologists involved a stable nomenclature is essential. If they are to build on the extensive work already done there seems nothing to be gained by reverting to a little known name. In days when retrospective computer searches of bibliographic databases are commonplace it is essential that nomenclature be consistent even if not faithful to the rules.

I support the application.

Editorial Note. The comments above are from members of the Nomenclature Committee of The Crustacean Society; the Secretary of this is Dr G.C.B. Poore, whose address is given above.

Comments on the proposed designation of *Agathis longicauda* Boheman, 1853 as the type species of *Vipio* Latreille, 1804 (Insecta, Hymenoptera)
(Case 2614; see BZN 48: 45–49)

(1) C. van Achterberg

Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum, P.O. Box 9517, 2300 RA Leiden, The Netherlands

The extremely complicated history of the name *Vipio* Latreille, 1804 and its type species, *Ichneumon desertor* Linnaeus, 1758, is clearly summarized in the application by Wharton & Mason. The problem is that most authors in the last century refer to Fabricius (1775) as the author of *Ichneumon desertor* but '*Ichneumon desertor* Fabricius' does not exist. In 1775 Fabricius merely repeated Linnaeus's description; that he added an incorrect reference to Schaeffer (1769) indicates only that he had conflicting ideas about *desertor*. In his collection there are several species under the name '*desertor*', even one belonging to the ICHNEUMONIDAE. The use by later authors of '*Ichneumon desertor* Fabricius' as the type species of *Vipio* is therefore unjustified. Fabricius (1775) neither gave a description of *desertor* of his own, nor had he a clear idea about Linnaeus's species. Consequently, it is justified to use *I. desertor* Linnaeus, 1758 as the nominal type species, in which case no action is needed by the Commission.

For reasons of stability this is a valid option because several authors (of the small number involved in the taxonomy of the groups concerned) agree on the need for a change and the two genera involved are comparatively small.

I know of 13 publications since 1982 on the subfamily BRACONINAE including the genus group *Vipio* auctt. Only five refer to it as *Vipio*: Marsh, Shaw & Wharton, 1987 (key to Nearctic genera); Papp, 1989, 1990a, 1990b (faunistic data only); Quicke & Sharkey, 1989 (key to Nearctic genera). Six papers refer to the oldest name available for the group, *Isomecus* Kriechbaumer, 1895: Papp, 1984 (faunistic data); Quicke, 1987 (extensive revision of the Palaetropical genera), 1988 (morphological study), 1989 (faunistic data), 1990 (morphology); Quicke & van Achterberg, 1990 (list of type specimens). In two papers the next available name (*Zavipio* Viereck, 1914) is used: Tobias, 1986 (extensive keys to the genera and species of Palaearctic BRACONINAE); Tobias & Potapova, 1987 (morphology). Concerning the AGATHIDINAE, I know of five papers including *Vipio* Latreille, 1804 published since 1982; three papers use *Vipio* in its proper sense of the type species: Tobias, 1986 (extensive keys); Tobias & Potapova, 1987 (morphology); Simbolotti & van Achterberg, 1990. In two papers its junior synonym *Cremnops* Foerster, 1862 is used: Tobias, 1989 (short survey); Chou & Sharkey, 1989 (key to Taiwanese genera).

Few papers including the names *Vipio* and *Cremnops* are written by non-taxonomists and a change according to the nominal type species will not cause any substantial problem. Both groups are in need of complete revision and nomenclatural stability will be reached only after this has been accomplished. Stability in the taxonomy of the BRACONIDAE is far out of reach; for example, thousands of species (partly used in biological control and ecological research) recently changed genus because of a publication by Mason (1981).

As the Code is strictly followed in my solution, namely treating *Ichneumon desertor* Linnaeus, 1758 as the type species of *Vipio*, no action by the Commission is necessary.

Additional references

- Chou, L.-Y. & Sharkey, M.J. 1989. The Braconidae (Hymenoptera) of Taiwan. 1. Agathidinae. *Journal of the Taiwan Museum*, **42**: 147–233.
- Mason, W.R.M. 1981. The polyphyletic nature of *Apanteles* Foerster (Hymenoptera: Braconidae): a phylogeny and reclassification of Microgastrinae. *Memoirs of the Entomological Society of Canada*, **115**: 1–147.
- Papp, J. 1984. Braconidae (Hymenoptera) from Mongolia, X. *Acta Zoologica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae*, **30**: 445–468.
- Papp, J. 1989. A contribution to the braconid fauna of Israel (Hymenoptera), 2. *Israel Journal of Entomology*, **22**: 45–49.
- Papp, J. 1990a. Braconidae (Hymenoptera) from Tunisia, 3. *Folia Entomologica Hungarica*, **51**: 89–96.
- Papp, J. 1990b. Braconidae (Hymenoptera) from Greece, 3. *Annales Musei Goulandris*, **8**: 269–290.
- Quicke, D.L.J. 1988. Inter-generic variation in the male genitalia of the Braconinae (Hymenoptera, Braconidae). *Zoologica Scripta*, **17**: 399–409.
- Quicke, D.L.J. 1989. Further host records for genera and species of Braconinae (Hymenoptera, Braconidae). *Entomologist's Monthly Magazine*, **125**: 199–205.
- Quicke, D.L.J. 1990. Tergal and inter-tergal metasomal glands of male braconine wasps (Insecta, Hymenoptera, Braconidae). *Zoologica Scripta*, **19**: 413–423.

- Quicke, D.L.J. & van Achterberg, C. 1990. The type specimens of Enderlein's Braconinae (Hymenoptera: Braconidae) housed in Warsaw. *Tijdschrift voor Entomologie*, **133**: 251–264.
- Simbolotti, G. & van Achterberg, C. 1990. Revision of the *Euagathis* species (Hymenoptera: Braconidae) from Sulawesi. *Zoologische Verhandelingen, Leiden*, **256**: 1–35.
- Tobias, V.I. 1986. Opredelitel nasekomykh evropeiskoi tsasmi SSSR, vol. 3 (Hymenoptera), part 4. *Opredeliteli po Faune SSR, Izdavaemye Zoologicheskim Muzeem*, **145**: 1–501.
- Tobias, V.I. 1989. Die Braconidae des europäische Teils der UdSSR. Pp. 278–279 in: *Verhandlungen IX SIEEC, Gotha, 1986*.
- Tobias, V.I. & Potopova, E.S. 1987. Labiomaksilljarnij kompleks brakonid (Hymenoptera, Braconidae), ego evoljutsija i taksonomitseskoe znatsenie. *Trudy Vsesoyuznogo Entomologicheskogo Obshchestva*, **69**: 190–208.

(2) Michael J. Sharkey

Biosystematics Research Centre, K.W. Neathy Building, C.E.F. Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0C6

I write in support of the application by Wharton & Mason to maintain the current usage of *Cremnops* Foerster, 1862. I have been publishing on various taxa within the AGATHIDINAE, including *Cremnops*, for about 10 years and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. I am therefore concerned that the name *Vipio* Latreille, 1804, long established in the BRACONINAE, may be transferred to the AGATHIDINAE to replace *Cremnops*.

This would serve no purpose other than to confuse the literature of the two subfamilies and indeed to confuse the identity of the genus *Vipio*.

Comment on the need for stability in fish family-group names

(See BZN 47: 97–100, 138, 295–296; 48: 147–148)

John R. Paxton & Jeffrey M. Leis

Division of Vertebrate Zoology, Australian Museum, 6–8 College Street, Sydney, New South Wales 2000, Australia

We agree with Wheeler (BZN 47: 97–100) that family names are important and see merit in his call for an international committee to consider the grammatically correct forms proposed by Steyskal (1980). We are also in agreement with Olson (BZN 47: 296) on the value of grammatically correct names.

We are in total disagreement with Randall's recommendation (BZN 47: 295) that all of these spellings be rejected. While Randall cites his comprehensive book (Randall, Allen & Steene, 1990) as one not using the emended names, we can cite ours (Leis & Trnski, 1989; Paxton, Hoese, Allen & Hanley, 1989) as books that do.

The important point is that the emended names are being used validly under the Code by many in the ichthyological community, and cannot be ignored or subjectively dismissed. Nor should the issue of the use of these emended names be decided by assembling lists of publications either using or not using them. A case for changing the Code to deal with such emended names so as to avoid controversy and potential confusion could be argued, but in the present situation this would very much be a case of 'closing the barn door after the horse had bolted'.